



## CITY OF REFUGE

**Date:** 17 October 2013

In the midst of immense uncertainty everyone is looking for a safe place to run to. God gave Noah the design for a safe place so that he will be protected from the flood that destroyed the earth that was filled with wickedness.

This safe place was for Noah and his sons and their wives. While in the ark everything they needed for life was inside the ark. Christ is our ark and He is our safe place. Our life is in Him and we are in Him. While that is eternally established we must bring the eternal to manifest in the natural by building the spiritual ark on the earth.

*10 The name of the Lord is a strong tower;  
The righteous run to it and are safe.*

*11 The rich man's wealth is his strong city,  
And like a high wall in his own esteem  
(Proverbs 18:10-11 NKJV)*

One finds safety in the Name of the Lord while the other finds safety in his riches

*23 Stay with me; do not fear. For he who seeks my life seeks your life, but with me you shall be safe (1 Samuel 22:23 NKJV)*

Priests found safety with David

Moses was commanded by God to appoint cities of refuge

*9 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 10 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan, 11 then you shall appoint cities to be cities of refuge for you, that the manslayer who kills any person accidentally may flee there. 12 They shall be cities of refuge for you from the avenger, that the manslayer may not die until he stands before the congregation in judgment. 13 And of the cities which you give, you shall have six cities of refuge  
(Numbers 35:9-13 NKJV)*

There were six cities that were to be appointed; three of either side of the Jordan river

*14 You shall appoint three cities on this side of the Jordan, and three cities you shall appoint in the land of Canaan, which will be cities of refuge  
(Numbers 35:14 NKJV)*

The purpose of appointing these cities was so that a MANSLAYER may have refuge from the AVENGER until the CONGREGATION could pass judgement.

*15 These six cities shall be for refuge for the children of Israel, for the stranger, and for the sojourner among them, that anyone who kills a person accidentally may flee there  
(Numbers 35:15 NKJV)*

There are three types of people that may have refuge in these cities:

- Children of Israel - sons
- Sojourners
- Stranger

The church is the Holy City that is descending from God from heaven

*2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband  
(Revelation 21:2 NKJV)*

Within the family of church you encounter different kinds of people:

### **Children or Sons of Israel**

These are those who can prove their genealogy and who have entered into covenantal relationships with spiritual fathers. We are all sons of God in Christ Jesus and we all have a Heavenly Father. While we are on the earth we have representative fathers who give spiritual oversight over our lives to bring growth in the spirit. Sons connect to their fathers and can be protected from the avenger in the city of refuge

### **Stranger**

This is a guest or a foreigner with no rights to an inheritance. Many within the city of refuge behave as foreigners. They do not understand the language nor the currency of the kingdom that is expressed within a household. While we are all the family of God or the Body of Christ we must know which tribe we belong to and not be strangers

### **Sojourner**

This is not a dweller but one seeking temporary asylum. Such individuals have no intent of staying but want to move around. They will not covenant but want the benefits of covenant. Their intent is to seek their own interests and move on.

*16 "But if he strikes him with an iron implement, so that he dies, he is a murderer; the murderer shall surely be put to death. 17 And if he strikes him with a stone in the hand, by which one could die, and he does die, he is a murderer; the murderer shall surely be put to death. 18 Or if he strikes him with a wooden hand weapon, by which one could die, and he does die, he is a murderer; the murderer shall surely be put to death  
(Numbers 35:16-18 NKJV)*

The manslayer will kill in three ways:

### **Iron Implement**

This is the sword. The sword is the word of God but it is also the sword that is in our mouths. Jesus is the Servant that has the sword in His mouth. As He is so are we.

*2 And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword  
(Isaiah 49:2 NKJV)*

The iron implement is the words that we speak which can bring life or death

*21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue,  
And those who love it will eat its fruit  
(Proverbs 18:21 NKJV)*

Words create and break. Words have the ability to reform and transform. What God says is created:

*3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light  
(Genesis 1:3 NKJV)*

We must know how to use words to build and establish. Many become manslayers because of their words.

### **Stone**

The stone is the judgement we pass on others yet we do not judge ourselves.

*7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, " He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first*

*(John 8:7 NKJV)*

The spirit of the Pharisee which is a religious spirit is quick to pass judgement without searching their own hearts.

*37 " Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and it will be given to you:good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you*

*(Luke 6:37-38 NKJV)*

To the measure that we judge or condemn we will receive the same pressed down, shaken together and running over.

During the time of judges there was always famine and the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord.

*1 Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land (Ruth 1:1 NKJV)*

In an environment of judgement and condemnation there will be a famine of His word and His spirit. We judge as kings and priests in Christ Jesus. Our lives become the judgement to others. People get judged by the standards they see in us.

### **Wooden weapon**

The wooden weapon is hypocrisy

*3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, "Let me remove the speck from your eye"; and look, a plank is in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye*

*(Matthew 7:3-5 NKJV)*

Many times we try to correct, advise and counsel others yet we have the same problems as they do. This is hypocrisy. A hypocrite says but does not do. Our words and lifestyle must be the same.

Peter fell into the trap of hypocrisy and was confronted by Paul

*11 Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; 12 for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. 13 And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy*

*(Galatians 2:11-13 NKJV)*

We can become manslaughterers because we use these three weapons to slay our brothers. Most times this is done unintentionally or accidentally and therefore we need a safe city to run into.

Of the six cities that God commanded to be appointed three were appointed by Moses and three were appointed by Joshua.

Moses

*41 Then Moses set apart three cities on this side of the Jordan, toward the rising of the sun, 42 that the manslayer might flee there, who kills his neighbor unintentionally, without having hated him in time past, and that by fleeing to one of these cities he might live: 43 Bezer in the wilderness on the plateau for the Reubenites, Ramoth in Gilead for the Gadites, and Golan in Bashan for the Manassites*  
(Deuteronomy 4:41-43 NKJV)

Joshua

*7 So they appointed Kedesh in Galilee, in the mountains of Naphtali, Shechem in the mountains of Ephraim, and Kirjath Arba (which is Hebron) in the mountains of Judah*  
(Joshua 20:7 NKJV)

Moses and Joshua shared the relationship of a spiritual father and a spiritual son. The safety that we need is in such a covenantal relationship. Many times we unintentionally or accidentally slay our brothers but covenant relationships provide protection from our avengers.

Jesus' safety was in the Father and the Father's safety was in His Son

*18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him*  
(John 1:18 NKJV)

The Father trusts the Son and commits all things into His hand. The Father feels safe with the Son

*35 The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand*  
(John 3:35 NKJV)

The safety within a covenantal relationship is oneness

*29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 I and My Father are one*  
(John 10:29-30 NKJV)

Ruth found safety under Naomi. Elisha found safety with Elijah. Timothy found safety in Paul.

Paul found safety and trust in Titus as a son when confidently appointed him to appoint elders.

*4 To Titus, a true son in our common faith:*

*Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.*

*5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—*

*(Titus 1:4-5 NKJV)*

Prodigal came back to the safe city of his father

*26 So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf*

*(Luke 15:26-27 NKJV)*

Our city of refuge is our covenant with God and those who represent Him

*37 Behold, I will gather them out of all countries where I have driven them in My anger, in My fury, and in great wrath; I will bring them back to this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely. 38 They shall be My people, and I will be their God*

*(Jeremiah 32:37-38 NKJV)*

The safety in the relationship of a father and a son is in understanding the responsibilities of a father and the son. In the six cities that were appointed the names of the cities have significant meaning in indicating such responsibility.

The name of the cities are significant in their meaning to understand the responsibility of the Father and the responsibility of the son

*Deuteronomy 4:41-43 (NKJV)*

*41 Then Moses set apart three cities on this side of the Jordan, toward the rising of the sun, 42 that the manslayer might flee there, who kills his neighbor unintentionally, without having hated him in time past, and that by fleeing to one of these cities he might live:43 **Bezer** in the wilderness on the plateau for the Reubenites, **Ramoth** in Gilead for the Gadites, and **Golan** in Bashan for the Manassites.*

These three cities signify the responsibility of the Father as these cities were appointed by Moses.

## **RESPONSIBILITY OF FATHERS**

### **BEZER**

h1221. בֶּזֶר beser; the same as 1220, an inaccessible spot; Betser, a place in Palestine; also an Israelite:— Bezer.

AV (5)- Bezer 5; Bezer ="gold ore" or "remote fortress"

Gold ore refers to deep things that must be dug out. These are secret, dark of hidden things. These would be referred to as mysteries that must be stewarded by a father.

*Deuteronomy 29:29 (NKJV)*

*"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

*1 Corinthians 4:1 (NKJV)*

*1 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.*

It is the responsibility of fathers to reveal secrets of the Father who is in secret. The wisdom of the father is in revealing that which is hidden.

Gold is a symbol of the divine nature of God. Fathers have the responsibility laboring till Christ is formed in the sons of God. The spirit man grows because there are Fathers that deliver, milk, bread and meat of the word of God. The delivery of the words that are spirit and life cause the divine nature to manifest in the life of the sons of God.

*2 Peter 1:3-4 (NKJV)*

*as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

The Father builds a habitat for your spirit to grow and not your soul to grow.

*Acts 20:32 (NKJV)*

*"So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*

The word of His grace develops the divine nature in the individual. A Father ensures a that a Babylonian envoy does not come to strip the gold from house. Confusion in the house causes the divine nature to be stripped from believers.

## **RAMOTH**

h7216. רַמּוֹת ra'mot; or רַמֹּת Ramoth; plural of 7215; heights; Ramoth, the name of two places in Palestine: — Ramoth..

AV ( 4)- Ramoth 4; Ramoth =" heights"

a place in Gilead; site dubious a Levitical city

Heights are reference to standards, elevation and maturity. A father must become the standard for the household. He is the connection between heaven and earth and must therefore maintain high standards. The Father becomes the reed or the rod of measurement.

The height if the Ark that Noah built was 30 cubits - a symbolic number of maturity. Fathers must come up higher into the spirit so that those connected can come up higher.

A standard was a banner.

*Song of Songs 2:4 (NKJV)*

*4 He brought me to the banqueting house,*

*And his banner over me was love.*

The standard that the Father sets is love. This is the love of the Father that gives.

It is the spirit of The Lord that raises that standard. The Lord lifts up a standard that attracts that nations. Nations were attracted to King Solomon because of standards. There was excellence in all that he did. Marriages, homes, children, cars, houses, relationships, websites must reveal heights.

*Isaiah 49:22-23 (NKJV)*

*Thus says the Lord God:*

*"Behold, I will lift My hand in an oath to the nations,*

*And set up My standard for the peoples;*

*They shall bring your sons in their arms,  
And your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders;  
23 Kings shall be your foster fathers,  
And their queens your nursing mothers;  
They shall bow down to you with their faces to the earth,  
And lick up the dust of your feet.  
Then you will know that I am the Lord,  
For they shall not be ashamed who wait for Me."*

Samuel became the standard in the nation of Israel.

*1 Samuel 12:3-5 (NKJV)*

*Here I am. Witness against me before the Lord and before His anointed: Whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken, or whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed, or from whose hand have I received any bribe with which to blind my eyes? I will restore it to you."*

*4 And they said, "You have not cheated us or oppressed us, nor have you taken anything from any man's hand."*

*5 Then he said to them, "The Lord is witness against you, and His anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand."*

*And they answered, " He is witness."*

## **GOLAN**

exiles, exile, captivity exiles ( coll) exile, captivity ( abstract)

h1474. גולן golan; from 1473; captive; Golan, a place east of the Jordan: — Golan.

AV ( 4)- Golan 4; Golan =" their captivity: their rejoicing"

a town of Manasseh in the heights of Bashan east of the Jordan

A father transitions people from captivity to rejoicing. Shifts people from slavery to sonship. As a habitat is configured, Abram becomes Abraham, Sarai becomes Sarah, Jacob becomes Israel, Saul becomes Paul.

There is a shift from captive thinking into full potential. Lot was taken coat ice but Abraham brought rejoicing. This reveals Melchizedek who is Christ. Christ is revealed when captivity is turned into rejoicing.

*Psalms 68:5-6 (NKJV)*

*A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows,*

*Is God in His holy habitation.*

*6 God sets the solitary in families;*

*He brings out those who are bound into prosperity;*

*But the rebellious dwell in a dry land.*

To shift people out of captivity into prosperity God sets people into families. Family is the most liberating feeling. God does set Himself in religiosity but in family.

*Joshua 20:7 (NKJV)*

*So they appointed **Kedesh** in Galilee, in the mountains of Naphtali, **Shechem** in the mountains of Ephraim, and **Kirjath Arba (which is Hebron)** in the mountains of Judah.*

These three cities were appointed under the leadership of Joshua and signify the responsibility of the son

## RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SON

### KEDESH

h6943. קֶדֶשׁ qedes; from 6942; a sanctum; Kedesh, the name of four places in Palestine:— Kedesh.

AV (12)- Kedesh 11, Kedeshnaphtali 1; Kedesh = "holy place"

The Holy Place is the inner court.

*Exodus 26:33 (NKJV)*

*And you shall hang the veil from the clasps. Then you shall bring the ark of the Testimony in there, behind the veil. The veil shall be a divider for you between the holy place and the Most Holy.*

This is a symbol of the culture of the kingdom

*Acts 2:42 (NKJV)*

*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

It is the responsibility of the son to stand in the culture of the kingdom. This culture must be infused into lifestyle. It must be part of marriages and homes. This culture is to stand in Christ.

Christ is the lamp stand - He is the light

Christ is the table of shewbread - He is the bread of Life

Christ is the incense - He is the aroma

This culture is to stand in Christ.

*Acts 17:28 (NKJV)*

*for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'*

Esther is a picture of the church that stands in this culture.

*Esther 5:1-2 (NKJV)*

*1 Now it happened on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, across from the king's house, while the king sat on his royal throne in the royal house, facing the entrance of the house. 2 So it was, when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, that she found favor in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther went near and touched the top of the scepter.*

She stood in the inner court and the king noticed her. She could touch his scepter which is a symbol of kingship and dominion. When sons stand in Christ they stand in dominion and authority.

### SHECHEM

h7927. שֶׁכֶם s kem; the same as 7926; ridge; Shekem, a place in Palestine:— Shechem.. AV (63)- Shechem 61, Sichem 1, Strong's synonym for consent 1; Shechem = "back" or "shoulder"

The shoulder is the place of bearing the burden or the load.



- Ark is was carried on the shoulders of the priests  
Sons must carry the presence of God
- Breastplate was hung of the shoulders of the High Priest  
Sons must carry the Body of Christ on their hearts
- Yoke is placed on the shoulder  
Sons must have a yoke to a Father
- Issachar bowed his shoulder because he had understanding of the times  
Sons must bow their shoulders to bear the weight
- Government is upon His shoulder  
Sons must carry the government of God
- Cross was carried on the shoulder  
Sons must die to themselves

Key if David is on the shoulder

*Isaiah 22:22 (NKJV)*

*The key of the house of David*

*I will lay on his shoulder;*

*So he shall open, and no one shall shut;*

*And he shall shut, and no one shall open.*

Eliakim is a father that God sets up to handle keys of the kingdom of God.

## **HEBRON**

h2275. חֶבְרוֹן hebron; from 2267; seat of association; Chebron, a place in Palestine, also the name of two Israelites:— Hebron..

AV (71)- Hebron 71; Hebron ="association"

Sons must come into oneness, joining so covenant, association, community, fellowship. Abram was in Hebron when he used his resource to rescue Lot.

Caleb who has a different spirit or the spirit of another or the glory of the latter,takes Hebron. He overcomes the giants of Anak.

*Joshua 15:13-16 (NKJV)*

*13 Now to Caleb the son of Jephunneh he gave a share among the children of Judah, according to the commandment of the Lord to Joshua, namely, Kirjath Arba, which is Hebron (Arba was the father of Anak). 14 Caleb drove out the three sons of Anak from there:Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmaj, the children of Anak. 15 Then he went up from there to the inhabitants of Debir (formerly the name of Debir was Kirjath Sepher). 16 And Caleb said, "He who attacks Kirjath Sepher and takes it, to him I will give Achsah my daughter as wife."*

It takes people with a different spirit to possess Hebron. There are giants in the church that must be slain so that Hebron becomes a reality.

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob all came the place called Hebron. This is a transgenerational location of family building patterns that build inheritance.

Sons must possess Hebron to get to Zion.

Hebron is the place of visibility. It is to come out of strongholds and hiding and to become visible.